

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 TRSE-00 /090 W

-----090155Z 119861 /13

R 080915Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO :SECSTATE WASHDC 8972

INFO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS DAKAR 2447

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, FR, XY, SG, CM

SUBJECT: CAMEROON PRESIDENT AHIDJO COMMENTS ON AFRICAN ISSUES

REF: STATE 77383 (NOTAL)

1. COMEROON PRESIDENT AHIDJO DEPARTED DAKAR APRIL 7 AFTER THREE-DAY PRIVATE VISIT TO SENEGAL WHICH COINCIDED WITH SENEGALESE NATIONAL DAY OBSERVANCE (DAKAR 2398) AND INCLUDED DINNER HOSTED BY PRESIDENT SENGHOR AND VISIT TO BUD-SENEGAL COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE-EXPORTING OPERATION WITH MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

2. IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN APRIL 7 LE SOLEIL (COPIES POUCHED AF/C AND YAOUNDE), AHIDJO CALLED DAKAR VISIT "TRIP FO FRIENDSHIP AND CONCERTATION." DURING AFRICA'S CURRENT "DIFFICULT PERIOD" IT WAS NECESSARY THAT AFRICAN LEADERS WHO KNEW EACH OTHER MEET, CONCERT AND TAKE BEARINGS. CAMEROON PRESIDENT SAID HE AND SENGHOR HAD AGREED TO SEE EACH OTHER MORE OFTEN AND REINFORCE BILATERAL COOPERATION.

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3. AHIDJO SAID CAMEROON WOULD NOT ATTEND APRIL 20-21 DAKAR FRANCO-AFRICAN SUMMIT, NOT BECAUSE IT WAS OPPOSED TO PRINCIPLE OF MEETING, BUT BECAUSE OF PERSONAL COMMITMENT NOT TO TAKE PART IN MULTINATIONAL MEETINGS RELATED TO EITHER OF CAMEROON'S TWO FORMER METROPOLES.

4. AHIDJO TOLD INTERVIEWER THAT OAU SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO

RECONCILE BLACK ZIMBABWE FACTIONS INSTEAD OF TAKING PART IN CONFLICT DIVIDING AFRICAN NATIONALISTS. NOTING THAT SHUTTLE BY FORMER SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD CREATED "SMALL GLIMMER OF HOPE," AHIDJO SAID THAT, WITH "FAILURE" OF GENEVA CONFERENCE, HE COULD NOT SEE NOW HOW RHODESIAN TRAGEDY COULD BE AVOIDED.

5. AHIDJO ATTRIBUTED IMPASSE IN NORTH-SOUTH TALKS TO "EGOTISM" OF INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES "WHICH SEEN INCAPABLE OF ACCOMPLISHING A TRUE ACT OF JUSTICE." QUOTING PRESIDENT SENHOR, AHIDJO SAID IT WAS INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES WHICH HAD "ORGANIZED" DETERIORATION OF TERMS OF TRADE. HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED HOPE FOR RESULTS OF MAY 1 LONDON MEETING OF "GREAT ECONOMIC POWER,,"

6. RESPONDING TO QUESTION ON CURRENT "INSECURITY OF FRONTIERS, BLODDY CONFRONTATIONS AND POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS" IN AFRICA, AHIDJO AGREED THAT THIS WAS "SAD REALITY." HE SAID IT WAS NECESSARY THAT AFRICAN POLITICAL LEADERS DEMONSTRATE "WISDOM, A SPIRIT OF COMPREHENSION AND ABOVE ALL TOLERANCE, IF THEY WISH TO AVOID CRISES AND MILITARY CONFRONTATIONS." AGGREY

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## Message Attributes

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